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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/064,250	04/22/1998	ELIYAHOU HARARI	HARI.006USM	5711

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EXAMINER

LE, VU ANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2824

DATE MAILED: 02/20/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/064,250

Applicant(s)

HARARI ET AL.

Examiner

Vu A. Le

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 October 1998.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 63-73 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 63-73 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

1. Claims 63-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. The independent claim 63 recites a limitation of "access means for converting a sector address received from the external system into a block number and for accessing the flash memory according to the block number" which is not supported by the specification. The specification teaches that "The Eeprom array 33 includes a number of Eeprom integrated circuit chips 43, 45, 47, etc." (page 7, lines 13-14) and "In the present invention, the Flash Eeprom memory is divided into sectors where all cells within each sector are erasable together" (page 9, lines 2-4) or "Flash Eeprom chip is partitioned into sectors" (page 9, lines 16-17). There is no place in the specification teaches a block number. Therefore, the specification also fails to teach the limitation of "access means for converting a sector address received from the external system into a block number and for accessing the flash memory according to the block number". Claim 64 recites a limitation of "each block comprising an area for storing a number of another block" which is not supported by the specification. The specification discloses a plurality of flash circuit chip, as

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explained above, which can be divided into a plurality of sectors but fails to disclose "each block comprising an area for storing a number of another block". Furthermore, the limitation of "said access means converts the sector address received from the external system into a block number and searches the block with such number in order to read therefrom the number of another block" in claim 64 is also not supported by the specification. The specification fails to support the block number, the conversion, and the "searches the block with such number in order to read therefrom the number of another block". With respect to claim 65, there is no "a logical block number" being disclosed in the specification. For the same reason as discussed above, the limitations of "individual blocks including an area to store a block address" and "addressing circuits responsive to a sector address... (b) read the block address stored in the block address area of said corresponding block, and (c) if the read block address is not the address of said corresponding block, addressing another block having the address read from said corresponding block" in independent claim 66 are not supported by the specification. With respect to method claim 69, the limitations of "configuring use of the memory cells within the individual sectors **to provide at least distinct portions in which** user data and **a sector address are stored**" and "in response to receiving a memory address from the host computer, addressing a corresponding sector **and reading the sector address from the sector address portion thereof**" and "if the read sector address is that of a sector other than the addressed corresponding sector, addressing the other sector and sending data to the host computer that is read from the user data portion of the other sector" are not supported by the specification. Furthermore, the specification

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also fails to teach the limitation of "memory array within a card that is removably connectable to the host computer system" as disclosed in the dependent claim 72.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vu A. Le whose telephone number is (703) 308-1497. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (7:00-3:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richard Elms can be reached on (703) 308-2816. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0725 for regular communications and (703) 308-0725 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.



Vu A. Le
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2824

February 19, 2003